

Before introducing your chairman, may I mention one more important fact concerning this conference. It has been called, as you know, at the direction of the President, and will provide essential data upon which I shall be making our report to him. The report will go forward as quickly as possible.

It is the Department's intention, as early as possible, to provide the press with appropriate background material. Release to the press and thus to the public of the conclusions which we are able to reach and the recommendations themselves will follow in due, and I am sure the earliest, course.

Gentlemen, I need not remind you that the American people expect great results from this meeting. Your responsibility is indeed a very heavy one. It rests on all of us who have special knowledge with respect to this tremendous instrument of good for mankind. Most particularly, all of us share in a grave concern about the production and the orderly procedures of distribution. They represent a challenge which I have every belief we can meet and move towards mastering here today.

Now I should like to introduce to you your chairman, although for most of you this introduction is superfluous. You know him as a distinguished physician, as an educator, and as one who is familiar not only with the medical aspects of our problem, but also with the problems of distribution of new and scarce drugs.

Ladies and gentlemen, I present your chairman, Dr. Chester S. Keefer.